

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 - 8 (Canceled)

9. (New) A method for operating a device, comprising:

subjecting items retained in the device to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the items, the step of drying including drawing at least one of air from a treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column and thereafter guiding the air that has passed through the sorption column into a treatment chamber, the sorption column containing reversibly dehydratable material that operates to withdraw moisture from air during the passage of the air through the sorption column; and

effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column via drawing at least one of air from the treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column by means of an air accelerator means, subjecting air passing through the sorption column to heating, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air during its passage through the sorption column by heat of condensation and a selected one of additional heating via a heater and no additional heating via a heater.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the passage of air is undertaken during a programme step using treatment liquid to be heated.
12. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air during its passage through the sorption column and thereafter passing the air through a heat storage device for cooling in order to intermediately store the heat used for desorption in the heat storage device, and further including thereafter passing air for heating purposes through the heat storage device and into the treatment chamber.
13. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via a heater in a pipe to the sorption column.
14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the treatment liquid and the items are heated by the heated air and effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes at least partly delivering the desorbed moisture from the sorption column into at least one of the treatment chamber or the heat storage device.
15. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via the heat of condensation in the sorption column.